

Human Relations News

from the

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

LEO P. CARLIN, MAYOR

An official agency created by the Newark Fair Practice Ordinance to carry out the State policy against discrimination based on race, color, creed or national origin.

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A bi-monthly summary of facts and trends in human relations and civil rights

May 1959

Program Set For Local ACTION Conference

The Committee to Rebuild Newark yesterday announced the program for the local ACTION conference that it will sponsor on the third day of the national ACTION conference to be held here May 4, 5 and 6.

The national conference of ACTION (American Council to Improve Our Neighborhoods) will be attended by about 500 leaders of business, labor and government, with all sections of the country represented.

Miss Agnes Coleman, co-chairman of the committee sponsoring the local meeting, said about 700 leaders of civic organizations, business firms, labor organizations and the city government will attend the Newark ACTION conference at the Essex House Hotel.

The program calls for a keynote speech by H. Bruce Palmer, chairman of the Newark Economic Development Committee and president of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co.

Following his speech, the conference will be broken down into three workshops, one on the role of builders and architects in city development, one on the part to be played by investors and real estate dealers and the third on steps to improve the physical character of the residential neighborhoods.

The local conference will close with a dinner session at the hotel at which James W. Rouse, president of ACTION, will speak. In addition, reports from each workshop will be presented.

(Reprint from the Newark Evening News, Monday, April 20, 1959)

Newark - 'A City In Transition' Shows City In Good Condition

The first two volumes of a three volume survey of Newark's residents, dealing with population shifts and the attitudes of people about each other, conducted by Market Planning Corporation of New York City, has just been completed for the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations.

The title of the scientific study is: "Newark, A City in Transition". The transition is descriptive of the mobility of the Negro population of Newark. Whereas, most of Newark's Negroes lived in the central core of the city in 1950, just eight years later, more than half of the total has moved to more desirable neighborhoods. The report indicates that this diffusion of Newark's largest minority group throughout the City has been accompanied by a better understanding between Negroes and whites living in the integrated neighborhoods.

On the other hand, the report shows that most white residents who live in neighborhoods with few or no Negroes tend to display a greater prejudice against Negroes and to give expression to more intense attitudes of discrimination.

The report says, Newark, like all other Northern cities, has undergone an exodus to the suburbs. As is typical, this flight to suburbia accounts for a loss in the total household population of this City. Since the 1950 Census, 1% of the total household population has moved out. At that time, there were 417,172 persons

living in the households of Newark, while today there are only 411,233. The white population has decreased 27% since 1950 the Negro population has doubled since then; the Survey finds 12,946 Puerto Ricans living in the City.

Daniel S. Anthony, Director of the Commission, in commenting on the first two volumes of research said, "Newark people are living in better intergroup harmony than most American metropolitan cities. Tension and conflict are at a minimum, and although there are examples of prejudice and discrimination, this Survey points the direction the Mayor's Commission can take to aid peaceful integration in all neighborhoods. The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations now has a documented blueprint for its education and action program and it will utilize these findings to make Newark a better City for all its people."

The survey shows that in many cases, as whites moved out of the city, Negroes, having a far greater need for decent housing, moved into the homes vacated by whites. This movement accounts in part for the great dispersion of the Negro household population throughout many neighborhoods of the city, which, according to the Rapkin Survey of 1957, makes Newark one of the most integrated cities in the United States. (An additional factor in this dispersive results from Newark's Urban Renewal Program which has displaced many central core resi-

Continued on Page 4, Column 3

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE NEWARK SURVEY

In keeping with the concept of a New Newark and the desires of Mayor Carlini, the Municipal Council and Newark's leaders to revitalize the social, cultural and economic growth of the City, the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations in 1955 proposed an unusual approach to the solution of interpersonal and intergroup problems. The plan called for a scientific analysis of the people of the City and the attitudes they hold about their City and about each other.

Mayor Leo P. Carlini in 1956 introduced a \$31,500.00 request for a Survey of Group Relations in Newark. The City Council appropriated half of the total for 1957 and the remainder for 1958, and the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations started to work. Newark was to be the first city in the United States to embark on so extensive a diagnosis of the personal and human factors which motivate the behavior of people.

In May of 1957, the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations contracted Dr. Chester Rapkin of the University of Pennsylvania to make a preliminary study of the City. Dr. Rapkin, with the assistance of George and Eunice Grier, completed "Group Relations in Newark 1957" in September of that year.

On the basis of this study, the Commission on Group Relations, after much deliberation, determined the basic human relations questions and problems of the City. Six major national research organizations were asked to submit bids for a survey of population statistics and the attitudes of the people of Newark concerning many aspects of life in their neighborhoods and the City at large.

Market Planning Corporation, a research affiliate of McCann-Erickson, one of the largest advertising agencies in the world, was finally chosen to conduct the survey. The general purpose of the study reflects the objectives of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations to foster the growth of healthy relationships between the many groups which make up Newark.

Market Planning Corporation received the bid for the job because it offered almost twice as many personal interviews with Newark residents as the next closest bidder. After several months of preparation, the researchers at Market

Planning determined to survey Newark with 4,000 interviews spread throughout the City in 819 special sections which they planned would completely mirror the total household population of Newark.

In the interviewing itself, white interviewers spoke with white residents, Negro interviewers with Negro residents and specially trained Spanish-speaking individuals were utilized to contact Spanish-speaking citizens. The bulk of the interviewing work was done between March and July, 1958. The subjects covered ranged from pure population statistics and counting of noses to attitudes toward the groups who live in Newark and toward people in the respondent's neighborhood.

As the job progressed, the team of statisticians, sociologists and psychologists at Market Planning Corporation realized that the final report would have to be recorded in two basic volumes: Volume I deals with census-type facts which were developed in the survey, such as population statistics by race, age, sex, neighborhood composition, occupation, rent, etc. These facts are not only of great importance in themselves, but also provided the necessary background for interpreting the findings in regard to intergroup attitudes. The second volume of the report deals with the thoughts, attitudes and opinions expressed by the people.

It includes an assessment of the extent of discrimination in Newark, the citizen's

own feelings about the desirability of certain types of discrimination, opinions about the existence of differences in the quality of certain city services provided to each group, beliefs about the relationships between real estate values and racial changes in various neighborhoods.

Continued on Page 4, Column 2

"Life In The New Newark" Distributed to 50,000 Families

A twelve-page pamphlet describing the education and action program of the Commission on Group Relations has just been distributed through the Newark Public Schools system to approximately 100,000 parents in the City.

Dr. Edward F. Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools, and the principals of all elementary and secondary schools co-operated with the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations in circulating the descriptive color pamphlets via all students to their parents.

The distribution was timed to coincide with the newspaper release of the findings of Market Planning Corporation: "Newark—A City In Transition". The purpose was to inform the citizens of Newark of the work of the Commission and to familiarize them with the reasons for conducting the survey on Newark's changing neighborhoods.

Persons wishing copies of this pamphlet or the results of the survey report may fill out the request form on page 4 and return it to this office.

CLINTON HILL NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE

Sponsored by

The Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council

Date: Sunday, May 24, 1959

Time: 2 - 5 P. M.

Place: Clinton Place Jr. High School
37 Clinton Pl., Newark, N. J.

Residents of Clinton Hill will gather to discuss mutual problems at this 4th Annual Roundtable Conference. The informal roundtable discussion will afford persons an opportunity to range over a host of community concerns.

At the conference, homeowners whose dwellings are selected as the best maintained and improved during the Cleanup Campaign, May 2-16, will receive cash prizes provided by the Newark Jr. Chamber of Commerce, co-sponsor of the drive.

Survey Gets Strong National and Local Response

America's businessmen and industrialists were the first to register an intense interest in receiving the full contents of Market Planning Corporation's survey entitled, "Newark—A City in Transition".

The comprehensive study of changes in Newark's neighborhoods and the attitudes of 4,000 residents concerning group relations in the City has been urgently requested by universities, libraries and social scientists throughout the country.

In addition, many local organizations and individuals have asked for the complete, unabridged study regardless of cost. All requests will be processed as soon as possible.

Commission Unprepared for Great Demand

Unfortunately, neither the Commission nor its staff were prepared for this reaction to the survey. Daniel S. Anthony, Director, and Walter D. Chambers, Research Assistant, are now negotiating with publishers in an effort to make the 4 books totaling 700 pages of research material available to the public at minimum cost.

The Commission plans to reproduce a limited number of Volume III, which is a condensation of the findings as well as recommendations for a local program of education and action. Persons who want either this summary or the total survey are asked to return the response form on this page to this office at once.

Summer Workshops On Human Relations

The Mayor's Commission on Group Relations is accepting applications for the annual summer Human Relations Workshops held at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey and the Encampment for Citizenship at Riverdale, New York and Berkeley, California.

The Rutgers workshops, "Community Leadership in Intergroup Relations", July 12-18, and the advanced "Modern Trends in Intergroup Relations", July 19-25, are sponsored by the State Division Against Discrimination, National Conference of Christians and Jews and Rutgers University. The "Community Leadership Workshop" is designed for those "persons who wish to improve their understanding of the problems confronting them in the area of intergroup relations and to learn up-to-date techniques useful to their solution".

The "Modern Trends Workshop" is an advanced course designed for those who

have had previous workshop experience or extensive work in intergroup relations in the community.

The Encampment for Citizenship is a six-week educational program conducted at the Fieldston School in Riverdale, N. Y., and the University of California, Berkeley, California, June 28 to August 8. The Encampment is designed for young adults, 18-23 years old "to develop informed and responsible citizens and to provide academic and personal contact with the ideas and people who contribute to the richness and texture present in America today".

All Newark residents interested in any of these workshops are asked to apply immediately at the office of the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations, Room 214, City Hall, MI 3-6300, Ext. 281.

City in Transition

Continued from Page 1, Column 3
deaths and forced them into neighborhood outside of the Central Ward.)

The study points out that contacts between white and Negro residents in labor unions, PTA's and civic clubs, tend to decrease discrimination as well as penetrate the myths on which racial prejudice is based.

One of the Tables shows that 21% of white property owners believe that their property has gone up in value since Negroes moved into the neighborhood. Twenty-three (23%) per cent think it has gone down, while 47% believe that the value has remained the same. In other words, 68% of whites do not think that their property values have fallen because Negro families have moved to their community.

These two informative volumes touching upon almost every aspect of life in Newark will be condensed in a Summary Volume III, which will include recommendations to the City of Newark for eliminating the major sources of intergroup misunderstanding and prejudice. This final work will be available in June for distribution to the public.

A limited number of the unexpurgated original report will be reproduced and made available to the public at cost price. Inquiries may be addressed to the MOGR, Room 214, City Hall, Newark 2, N. J.

Background and Purpose

Continued from Page 3, Column 3
and many other questions too numerous to relate here.

In addition to these two basic volumes, a third volume summarizing the major findings is now in process. "Such recommendations for Newark as can legitimately be made on the basis of the results found in Volumes I and II will be included in the summary".

The Commission on Group Relations will then structure its future programs for education and action on the results of the complete report.

TEAR OUT AND MAIL TO

MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON GROUP RELATIONS

Room 214, City Hall
Newark 2, N. J.

- ☐ Please send me _____ copies of your pamphlet "Life in the New Newark"
- ☐ I would like to receive a copy of the summary volume of the report, **Newark—A City in Transition**, which is free of charge.
- ☐ I would like to purchase the complete 3 volume study at a cost of approximately \$10.00 for the set of four books.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____